

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An apparatus with a dual-writing function comprising:
2 a first module for controlling an interface to an
3 external apparatus;
4 a plurality of second modules each having a cache
5 memory; and
6 a bridge module connected through an interface bus
7 to said first and second modules for accomplishing a
8 connection between said first module and said second module
9 for data transfer therebetween,
10 said first module including address designation means
11 for producing addressing information to designate two
12 written-in destinations for writing data to be written,
13 which is received from said external apparatus, through
14 said bridge module into said cache memories of two of said
15 plurality of second modules, and
16 said bridge module including:
17 address production means for analyzing said
18 addressing information, which is received together with
19 said data to be written from said first module, to produce
20 two transferred-to addresses for designation of said two
21 second modules having said cache memories in which said
22 data is to be actually written and to produce written-in
23 addresses in said cache memories; and
24 data transfer control means for controlling data
25 transfer from said bridge module to said second modules
26 so that, after said data is transferred to the two second

27 modules corresponding to said two transferred-to addresses,
28 said data is written at said written-in address in said
29 cache memory of each of the two second modules.

1 2. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 1, wherein said address designation means
3 designates, in said addressing information, an page address
4 in said cache memory of each of said second modules and
5 an offset address in a page designated by said page address,
6 as saidwritten-in address for saiddata in said cache memory.

1 3. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 2, wherein said address designation means
3 designates, in said addressing information, specific
4 information for specifying said two second modules having
5 said cache memories in which said data is to be actually
6 written, as saidtwo transferred-to addresses for said data.

1 4. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 3, wherein said interface bus is a PCI (Peripheral
3 Component Interconnect) bus, and numbers for specifying
4 said PCI buses for said two second modules are designated
5 as said specific information.

1 5. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 1, wherein each of said second modules includes
3 management means for managing information on the second
4 module which is in mirror relation to this second module

5 and for managing the association between a master area
6 address in said cache memory in this second module and a
7 mirror area address in said cache memory of the second module
8 being in the mirror relation to this second module, and
9 said address designation means of said first module produces
10 said addressing information on the basis of information
11 acquired from said management means of one of the two second
12 modules.

1 6. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 2, wherein each of said second modules includes
3 management means for managing information on the second
4 module which is in mirror relation to this second module
5 and for managing the association between a master area
6 address in said cache memory in this second module and a
7 mirror area address in said cache memory of the second module
8 being in the mirror relation to this second module, and
9 said address designation means of said first module produces
10 said addressing information on the basis of information
11 acquired from said management means of one of the two second
12 modules.

1 7. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 3, wherein each of said second modules includes
3 management means for managing information on the second
4 module which is in mirror relation to this second module
5 and for managing the association between a master area

6 address in said cache memory in this second module and a
7 mirror area address in said cache memory of the second module
8 being in the mirror relation to this second module, and
9 said address designation means of said first module produces
10 said addressing information on the basis of information
11 acquired from said management means of one of the two second
12 modules.

1 8. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 4, wherein each of said second modules includes
3 management means for managing information on the second
4 module which is in mirror relation to this second module
5 and for managing the association between a master area
6 address in said cache memory in this second module and a
7 mirror area address in said cache memory of the second module
8 being in the mirror relation to this second module, and
9 said address designation means of said first module produces
10 said addressing information on the basis of information
11 acquired from said management means of one of the two second
12 modules.

1 9. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 5, wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a
3 master area of said cache memory runs short when data to
4 be read out through said bridge module into said first module
5 is temporarily preserved in the cache memory, each of said
6 second modules preserves the readout data in a mirror area

7 of said cache memory of the second module, which is in the
8 mirror relation to this second module, on the basis of a
9 situation of management by said management means.

1 10. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 6, wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a
3 master area of said cache memory runs short when data to
4 be read out through said bridge module into said first module
5 is temporarily preserved in the cache memory, each of said
6 second modules preserves the readout data in a mirror area
7 of said cache memory of the second module, which is in the
8 mirror relation to this second module, on the basis of a
9 situation of management by said management means.

1 11. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 7, wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a
3 master area of said cache memory runs short when data to
4 be read out through said bridge module into said first module
5 is temporarily preserved in the cache memory, each of said
6 second modules preserves the readout data in a mirror area
7 of said cache memory of the second module, which is in the
8 mirror relation to this second module, on the basis of a
9 situation of management by said management means.

1 12. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 8, wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a
3 master area of said cache memory runs short when data to

4 be read out through said bridge module into said first module
5 is temporarily preserved in the cache memory, each of said
6 second modules preserves the readout data in a mirror area
7 of said cache memory of the second module, which is in the
8 mirror relation to this second module, on the basis of a
9 situation of management by said management means.

1 13. An apparatus with a dual-writing function comprising:
2 a first module for controlling an interface to
3 an external apparatus;
4 a plurality of second modules each having a cache
5 memory; and
6 a bridge module connected through an interface
7 bus to said first and second modules for accomplishing a
8 connection between said first module and said second module
9 for data transfer therebetween,
10 said first module writing data to be written, which
11 is received from said external apparatus, through said
12 bridge module into said cache memories of two of said
13 plurality of second modules, and
14 each of said second modules including management means
15 for managing information on the second module which is in
16 mirror relation to this second module and for managing the
17 association between a master area address in said cache
18 memory in this second module and a mirror area address in
19 said cache memory of the second module being in the mirror
20 relation to this second module.

1 14. The apparatus with a dual-writing function according
2 to claim 13, wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a
3 master area of said cache memory runs short when data to
4 be read out through said bridge module into said first module
5 is temporarily preserved in the cache memory, each of said
6 second modules preserves the readout data in a mirror area
7 of said cache memory of the second module, which is in the
8 mirror relation to this second module, on the basis of a
9 situation of management by said management means.

1 15. A storage control apparatus placed between a disk unit
2 and a host for controlling access to said disk unit by said
3 host, said storage control apparatus comprising:

4 a disk interface module for controlling an interface
5 to said disk unit;

6 a host interface module for controlling an interface
7 to said host;

8 a plurality of management modules, each including a
9 cache memory, for generally controlling the entire
10 apparatus; and

11 a bridge module connected through an interface bus
12 to said disk interface module, said host interface module
13 and said management modules for making connections among
14 said disk interface module, said host interface module and
15 said management modules for data transfer among said
16 modules,

17 said host interface module including:
18 address designation means for producing
19 addressing information to designate two written-in
20 destinations for writing data to be written, which is
21 received from said host, through said bridge module into
22 said cache memories of two of said plurality of management
23 modules, and
24 said bridge module including:
25 address production means for analyzing said
26 addressing information, which is received together with
27 said data to be written from said host interface module,
28 to produce two transferred-to addresses for designation
29 of said two management modules having said cache memories
30 in which said data is to be actually written and to produce
31 written-in addresses in said cache memories; and
32 data transfer control means for controlling data
33 transfer from said bridge module to said management modules
34 so that, after said data is transferred to the two management
35 modules corresponding to said two transferred-to addresses,
36 said data is written at said written-in address in said
37 cache memory of each of the two management modules.

1 16. The storage control apparatus according to claim 15,
2 wherein said address designation means designates, in said
3 addressing information, an page address in said cache memory
4 of each of said management modules and an offset address
5 in a page designated by said page address, as said written-in

6 address for said data in said cache memory.

1 17. The storage control apparatus according to claim 16,
2 wherein said address designation means designates, in said
3 addressing information, specific information for
4 specifying said two management modules having said cache
5 memories in which said data is to be actually written, as
6 said two transferred-to addresses for said data.

1 18. The storage control apparatus according to claim 17,
2 wherein said interface bus is a PCI (Peripheral Component
3 Interconnect) bus, and numbers for specifying said PCI buses
4 for said two management modules are designated as said
5 specific information.

1 19. The storage control apparatus according to claim 15,
2 wherein each of said management modules includes management
3 means for managing information on the management module
4 which is in mirror relation to this management module and
5 for managing the association between a master area address
6 in said cache memory in this management module and a mirror
7 area address in said cache memory of the management module
8 being in the mirror relation to this management module,
9 and said address designation means of said host interface
10 module produces said addressing information on the basis
11 of information acquired from said management means of one
12 of the two management modules.

1 20. The storage control apparatus according to claim 16,
2 wherein each of said management modules includes management
3 means for managing information on the management module
4 which is in mirror relation to this management module and
5 for managing the association between a master area address
6 in said cache memory in this management module and a mirror
7 area address in said cache memory of the management module
8 being in the mirror relation to this management module,
9 and said address designation means of said host interface
10 module produces said addressing information on the basis
11 of information acquired from said management means of one
12 of the two management modules.

1 21. The storage control apparatus according to claim 17,
2 wherein each of said management modules includes management
3 means for managing information on the management module
4 which is in mirror relation to this management module and
5 for managing the association between a master area address
6 in said cache memory in this management module and a mirror
7 area address in said cache memory of the management module
8 being in the mirror relation to this management module,
9 and said address designation means of said host interface
10 module produces said addressing information on the basis
11 of information acquired from said management means of one
12 of the two management modules.

1 22. The storage control apparatus according to claim 18,

2 wherein each of said management modules includes management
3 means for managing information on the management module
4 which is in mirror relation to this management module and
5 for managing the association between a master area address
6 in said cache memory in this management module and a mirror
7 area address in said cache memory of the management module
8 being in the mirror relation to this management module,
9 and said address designation means of said host interface
10 module produces said addressing information on the basis
11 of information acquired from said management means of one
12 of the two management modules.

1 23. The storage control apparatus according to claim 19,
2 wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a master area
3 of said cache memory runs short when data read out from
4 said disk unit through said disk interface module and said
5 bridge module is temporarily preserved in the cache memory,
6 each of said management modules preserves the readout data
7 in a mirror area of said cache memory of the management
8 module, which is in the mirror relation to this management
9 module, on the basis of a situation of management by said
10 management means.

1 24. The storage control apparatus according to claim 20,
2 wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a master area
3 of said cache memory runs short when data read out from
4 said disk unit through said disk interface module and said

5 bridge module is temporarily preserved in the cache memory,
6 each of said management modules preserves the readout data
7 in a mirror area of said cache memory of the management
8 module, which is in the mirror relation to this management
9 module, on the basis of a situation of management by said
10 management means.

1 25. The storage control apparatus according to claim 21,
2 wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a master area
3 of said cache memory runs short when data read out from
4 said disk unit through said disk interface module and said
5 bridge module is temporarily preserved in the cache memory,
6 each of said management modules preserves the readout data
7 in a mirror area of said cache memory of the management
8 module, which is in the mirror relation to this management
9 module, on the basis of a situation of management by said
10 management means.

1 26. The storage control apparatus according to claim 22,
2 wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a master area
3 of said cache memory runs short when data read out from
4 said disk unit through said disk interface module and said
5 bridge module is temporarily preserved in the cache memory,
6 each of said management modules preserves the readout data
7 in a mirror area of said cache memory of the management
8 module, which is in the mirror relation to this management
9 module, on the basis of a situation of management by said

10 management means.

1 27. A storage control apparatus placed between a disk
2 unit and a host for controlling access to said disk unit
3 by said host, said storage control apparatus comprising:

4 a disk interface module for controlling an interface
5 to said disk unit;

6 a host interface module for controlling an interface
7 to said host;

8 a plurality of management modules for generally
9 controlling the entire control unit; and

10 a bridge module connected through an interface bus
11 to said disk interface module, said host interface module
12 and said management modules for making connections among
13 said disk interface module, said host interface module and
14 said management modules for data transfer among said
15 modules,

16 said host interface module writing data to be written,
17 which is received from said host, through said bridge module
18 into cache memories of two of said plurality of management
19 modules, and

20 each of said management modules including management
21 means for managing information on the management module
22 which is in mirror relation to this management module and
23 for managing the association between a master area address
24 in said cache memory in this management module and a mirror
25 area address in said cache memory of the management module

26 being in the mirror relation to this management module.

1 28. The storage control apparatus according to claim 27,
2 wherein, in a case in which a capacity of a master area
3 of said cache memory runs short when data read out from
4 said disk unit through said disk interface module and said
5 bridge module is temporarily preserved in the cache memory,
6 each of said management modules preserves the readout data
7 in a mirror area of said cache memory of the management
8 module, which is in the mirror relation to this management
9 module, on the basis of a situation of management by said
10 management means.